

## Attorney's Docket No.

DECLARATION

I, the below-named inventor hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I verily believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or a joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below), of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

HEAT PROTECTIVE COVER SYSTEM FOR HOT WATER PIPES

which is described and claimed in the attached specification;

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1,56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 of any foreign application or applications for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s):

Priority Claimed

NONE

|          |           |                  |       |       |
|----------|-----------|------------------|-------|-------|
| _____    | _____     | _____            | _____ | _____ |
| _____    | _____     | _____            | _____ | _____ |
| _____    | _____     | _____            | _____ | _____ |
| (Number) | (Country) | (Day/Month/Year) | Yes   | No    |

I do not know and do not believe that the invention was ever known or used in the United States of America before my or our invention thereof;

I do not know and do not believe that the invention was ever patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my or our invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application;

I do not know and do not believe that the invention was in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application;

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application or applications listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a) which occurred between the international filing date of this application:

NONE

| (Country) | (App. Ser. No.) | (Filing Date) | (Patented, Pending<br>or Abandoned) |
|-----------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
|-----------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|

| (Country) | (App. Ser. No.) | (Filing Date) | (Patented, Pending<br>or Abandoned) |
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|-----------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|

I hereby appoint ROBERT J. SCHAAP, Registration No. 20,577 of 21241 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 188, Woodland Hills, California 91364 to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office in connection therewith. Address all telephone calls to ROBERT J. SCHAAP at (818) 346-6555. Address all correspondence to ROBERT J. SCHAAP at the above address.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

GABRIEL V. LECHUGA  
FULL NAME OF INVENTOR

  
INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE

Date:

12/11/2000

Residence: 7 CAMBRIDGE COURT  
RANCHO MIRAGE, CA. 92270

Citizenship: U.S.A

**Post Office Address:**

**FULL NAME OF INVENTOR**

**INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE**

**Date:**

**Residence:**

**Citizenship:**

**Post Office Address:**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:  
GABRIEL V. LECHUGA

**SERIAL NO.**

GROUP ART UNIT NO.

**FILED:**

**TITLE:HEAT PROTECTIVE  
COVER SYSTEM FOR HOT WATER  
PIPES**

**EXAMINER:**

## DECLARATION

VERIFIED STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS  
[37 C.F.R. §1.9(f) AND 1.27(b) AS AN INDEPENDENT INVENTOR]  
(APPLICATION FILED HEREWITH)

Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

As a below named inventor or below named inventors (if more than one), I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.90 for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention identified above and described in the specification filed herewith.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 C.F.R. §1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 C.F.R. §1.9(d) or

a non-profit organization under 37 C.F.R. §1.9(e).

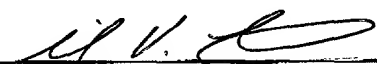
I have not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention to any person, concern, or organization.

I acknowledge the duty to file in this application or patent issuing thereon, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. [37 C.F.R. §1.28(b)]

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

GABRIEL V. LECHUGA

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF INVENTOR

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR

12/11/2000  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
FULL NAME OF INVENTOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Office Address:  
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FORMS  
Declarat.2